



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/534,782

11/16/2007

Gaetano T. Montelione

RUT0002-00US

1781

29880

7590

03/11/2009

FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP  
PRINCETON PIKE CORPORATE CENTER  
2000 Market Street  
Tenth Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

EXAMINER

SALIMI, ALI REZA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1648

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/11/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/534,782	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MONTELIONE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> A R. Salimi	<b>Art Unit</b> 1648	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8, 9, 11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-9, 11-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

Art Unit: 1648

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

This is a response to the amendment filed 01/20/2009. Claims 5-7, 10, 13-42 are canceled. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3, 8, 9. Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-12 are pending and are under consideration.

Please note any ground of rejection that has not been repeated is removed. Applicants' response deemed persuasive.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated over LU et al (Virology, 1995, Vol. 214, pp 222-228) for reasons of record advanced in the previous Office Action mailed 10/17/2008. Applicants assert in their argument and in the declaration filed by Dr. Krug that “about 16 bp long” as now recited in claim 1 is not present in the disclosure of Lu et al.

Applicants’ argument and declaration as part of amendment filed 01/20/2009 have been considered fully, but they are not persuasive.

Lu et al taught NS1 binding to dsRNA (see the abstract). In addition, they taught labeled fusion protein to NS1 (see Figure 1). Lu et al taught a 29 base pair dsRNA (see page 223). And since the limitation of “about” is not defined in the specification or the claims, the product taught by Lu et al still reads on the now claimed invention. The 29 base pair is reasonably within the

Art Unit: 1648

“about” range. The rejection is respectfully maintained.

**New Grounds of Rejection:**

***Claim Objections***

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim refers to “NSI”, instead of NS1. Appropriate correction is required. This affects the dependent claims 2-4, 8-9, 11-12.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a **written description** of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 8, 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had **possession** of the claimed invention. In the instant disclosure, the applicants have not disclosed any dsRNA binding regions for Influenza C NS1 protein. The specification does not set forth the metes and bounds of what is encompassed within the broad scope of claimed invention. And there is not enough information about it in literature to guide the one of ordinary skill in the art to predict the undisclosed regions. Therefore, a written description of the dsRNA binding regions for Influenza C NS1 protein should be disclosed to overcome this rejection. See also *University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co.*, 43 USPQ2d 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1997), which teaches that the disclosure of a process for obtaining cDNA from a particular organism and the

Art Unit: 1648

description of the encoded protein fail to provide an adequate written description of the actual cDNA from that organism which would encode the protein from that organism, despite the disclosure of a cDNA encoding that protein from another organism. 35 USC 112 requires inter alia that a patent specification contain a written description of the invention and the manner and process of making and using it "in such full clear and concise terms as to enable one skilled in the art ... to make and use" the invention. Case law has made it clear that the requirements for a "written description" and an "enabling disclosure" are separate. For example, where a specification contains sufficient information to enable a skilled chemist to produce a particular compound because it gives detailed information on how to produce analogous compounds but it makes no reference to the compound in question, the "written description" requirement has not been met even though the description may be enabling.

See *University of California v. Eli Lilly*, 19 F.3d 1559, 43 USPQ 2d 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1997):

The name cDNA is not in itself a written description of that DNA; it conveys no distinguishing information concerning its identity. While the example provides a process for obtaining human insulin-encoding cDNA, there is no further information in the patent pertaining to that cDNA's relevant structural or physical characteristics; in other words, it thus does not describe human insulin cDNA .... Accordingly, the specification does not provide a written description of the invention ....

and at pg 1406:

a generic statement such as "vertebrate insulin cDNA" or "mammalian insulin cDNA," without more, is not an adequate written description of the genus because it does not distinguish the genus from others, except by function. It does not specifically define any of the genes that fall within its definition. It does not define any structural features commonly possessed by members of the genus that distinguish them from others. One skilled in the art therefore cannot, as one can do with a fully described genus, visualize or recognize the identity of the members of the genus. A definition by function, as we have previously indicated, does not suffice to define the genus because it is only an indication of what the genus does, not what it is.

See *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.*, 18 USPQ 2d 1016 at page 1021:

A gene is a chemical compound, albeit a complex one, and ... conception of a chemical compound requires that the inventor be able to define it so as to distinguish it from other materials .... Conception does not occur unless one has a mental picture of the structure of the chemical or is able to define it by its method of preparation, its physical or chemical properties, or whatever characteristics sufficiently

Art Unit: 1648

distinguish it. It is not sufficient to define it solely by its principal biological property, *e.g.*, encoding human erythropoietin, because an alleged conception having no more specificity than that is simply a wish to know the identity of any material with that biological property.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Chien Chen-Ya [Ph.D]; Montelione, Gaetano [Advisor] (Dissertation Abstracts International (1999, Vol. 60, No. 6B, p. 2669, Order No: AA19936176).

According to the in-house search the above cited dissertation clearly anticipates the now claimed invention. Chien as part of his dissertation disclosed a novel RNA binding motif for NS1 protein of influenza virus or a dsRNA. The dissertation also specifically disclosed the 16 base pair length interaction that binds protein (see the entire abstract, and the title). The above cited abstract was available years before the now claimed priority. The disclosure of the above cited abstract meets each and every limitation of the now claimed invention.

Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatada et al (Journal of general Virology (1992, Vol. 73, pages 3325-3329).

Hatada et al taught NS1 domain of influenza A and its mode of binding to RNA (see the abstract). The structure as disclosed in Figure 5 of the above cited article clearly reads on the hair

Art Unit: 1648

pin loop of the now claimed invention. They disclosed about 16 base pair in length structure (see Figure 5, page 3328).

Additionally, under inherency doctrine where the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, a prima facie case of either anticipation or obviousness has been established. See, In re Best, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977).

Moreover, there is no requirement that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the inherent disclosure at the time of invention, but only that the subject matter is in fact inherent in the prior art reference. See, Schering Corp. v. Geneva Pharm. Inc., 339 F.3d 1373, 1377, 67 USPQ2d 1664, 1668 (Fed. Cir. 2003).

No claims are allowed.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. R. Salimi whose telephone number is (571) 272-0909. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 Am to 6:00 Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bruce Campell, can be reached on (571) 272-0974. The Official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Art Unit: 1648

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/A R Salimi/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1648

03/09/2009